

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A portable radio terminal, comprising:
 - 2 a direction indicator key that outputs directional
 - 3 indication indicating one direction out of predetermined plural
 - 4 directions; and
 - 5 a controller that validates or invalidates the directional
 - 6 indication output by the direction indicator key.

- 1 2. The portable radio terminal according to claim 1, further
 - 2 comprising:
 - 3 an operator console that outputs the specification of a
 - 4 valid direction specifying whether the directional indication
 - 5 is validated based upon a direction indicated by the directional
 - 6 indication or not, wherein:
 - 7 the controller validates or invalidates the directional
 - 8 indication according to the specification of the valid direction
 - 9 output by the operator console.

- 1 3. The portable radio terminal according to claim 1, further
 - 2 comprising:
 - 3 a display that displays plural areas for displaying items
 - 4 showing the contents of operation and the contents of processing
 - 5 and displays the area corresponding to a currently selected item
 - 6 out of the plural areas as an active area based upon an instruction
 - 7 from the controller, wherein:
 - 8 the controller shifts the position of active display

9 currently displayed on the display to a direction indicated by
10 the directional indication when the directional indication is
11 validated.

1 4. The portable radio terminal according to claim 1, wherein:
2 the predetermined plural directions are at least four
3 directions.

1 5. The portable radio terminal according to claim 1, wherein:
2 the direction indicator key indicates one direction out
3 of eight longitudinal, lateral and diagonal directions; and
4 the controller divides the eight directions into plural
5 directional groups and validates or invalidates the directional
6 indication collectively every directional group.

1 6. The portable radio terminal according to claim 5, wherein:
2 the plural directional groups are two types of directional
3 groups of four basic directions showing four longitudinal and
4 lateral directions and four extended directions showing four
5 diagonal directions.

1 7. The portable radio terminal according to claim 5, further
2 comprising:

3 an operator console that outputs the specification of a
4 valid direction specifying whether the directional indication
5 is validated based upon a direction indicated by the directional
6 indication collectively every directional group out of the plural

7 directional groups or not, wherein:

8 the controller validates or invalidates the directional
9 indication according to the specification of the valid direction
10 output by the operator console.

1 8. The portable radio terminal according to claim 1, further
2 comprising:

3 a display that displays a figure of valid directions
4 showing all directions in which the directional indication is
5 valid.

1 9. The portable radio terminal according to claim 8, wherein:
2 the controller changes a part corresponding to a direction
3 indicated by the directional indication in the figure of valid
4 directions and instructs the display to display the changed
5 figure when the directional indication is validated.

1 10. The portable radio terminal according to claim 8, wherein:
2 the controller changes the display color of a part
3 corresponding to a direction indicated by the directional
4 indication in the figure of valid directions and instructs the
5 display to display the changed figure when the directional
6 indication is validated.

1 11. The portable radio terminal according to claim 8, wherein:
2 the controller changes the display form of a part
3 corresponding to a direction indicated by the directional

4 indication in the figure of valid directions and instructs the
5 display to display the changed figure when the directional
6 indication is validated.

1 12. The portable radio terminal according to claim 8, wherein:
2 the display displays a screen that is provided with plural
3 areas for displaying items showing the contents of operation
4 and the contents of processing and the figure of valid directions;
5 and
6 the controller instructs the display to display the figure
7 of valid directions showing all directions indicated by the
8 directional indication and validated on the following switched
9 screen when the screen displayed on the display is switched to
10 another screen.

1 13. A method of setting an indicatable direction of a preset
2 direction indicator key in a portable radio terminal, comprising:
3 a first step for specifying a direction in which
4 directional indication output by the direction indicator key
5 is validated; and
6 a second step for setting the valid direction specified
7 in the first step.

1 14. The method according to claim 13, wherein:
2 for the valid direction, there are two types of eight
3 longitudinal, lateral and diagonal directions and four
4 longitudinal and lateral directions.

1 15. The method according to claim 13, further comprising:
2 a step for displaying a figure designating all directions
3 included in the currently set valid directions.

1 16. The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
2 a step for changing a part corresponding to a direction
3 indicated by the direction indicator key in the figure
4 designating directions and displaying the changed figure.

1 17. The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
2 a step for changing the display color of a part
3 corresponding to a direction indicated by the direction indicator
4 key in the figure designating directions and displaying the
5 changed figure.

1 18. The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
2 a step for changing the display form of a part corresponding
3 to a direction indicated by the direction indicator key in the
4 figure designating directions and displaying the changed figure.

5 19. A method of setting an indicatable direction of a preset
6 direction indicator key in a portable radio terminal, wherein:
7 a valid direction showing a direction in which directional
8 indication according to the following switched screen output
9 by the direction indicator key is judged valid when the currently
10 displayed screen is switched to another screen is set.